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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE LUSAKA-BASED MULPOC IN MINERAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

1. The basic objective of the work programme of the Lusaka-based MULPOC in the sector of mineral resources is to promote co-operation among the countries of the Eastern and Southern African subregion[1] in the various phases of mineral resources development through: the collection of data, synthesis and preparation of studies for dissemination to and use by member States and inter-governmental institutions for utilization of their mineral development activities; the provision of advisory services to member States and inter-governmental institutions, upon request, on technical, economic, managerial and policy aspects related to mineral resources development; the promotion of the establishment and/or strengthening of national, multicountry and subregional institutions of member States for the development of mineral resources of the subregion; the organisation of meetings, seminars, workshops and study tours of representatives of member States responsible for mineral resources development intended to enhance the contribution of minerals to the socio-economic development of the subregion; and the fostering of co-operation between the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and other relevant international or inter-governmental organisations with a view to enhancing the capabilities of the countries of the subregion in the development and utilization of their mineral resources.

2. During the year under review the main activities undertaken by the ECA secretariat for the Lusaka MULPOC countries in the sector of mineral resources development included: the dissemination of the final reports and recommendations of the Regional Workshop on the Role and Prospects for Copper and Aluminium in African development (ECA/NRD/ICA/5), and the Second Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa (E/ECA/CM.11/52) both of which meetings were convened by the ECA secretariat in Lusaka, Zambia during the first quarter of 1985; the provision of advisory services on small-scale mining of gemstones and building materials to some countries of the subregion; the provision of technical and administrative support to the Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC); the mobilization of member States and donors support towards the operation of the ESAMRDC; and the undertaking of consultations with the secretariat of the

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1/ Angola, Botswana, Comores, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC)[2] Mining Sector Co-ordinating Sub-Committee on the manner in which the ECA secretariat could provide assistance to SADCC in mineral resources development.

3. In order to enhance the impact of its services to the member States, the ECA secretariat has assigned a specialist on mineral resources development to the MULPOC office in Lusaka in order to implement its work programme in mineral resources development within the subregion. Extensive consultations between the MULPOC office and other inter-governmental institutions such as SADCC, the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa (PTA), the ESAMRDC, the Southern African Labour Commission (SALC) etc.- and other relevant institutions in the mineral sectors of the subregion will take place in the first half of 1986 in order to establish a realistic work programme and its programme implementation plan in the sector of mineral resources for the Lusaka MULPOC within the approved programme budget for the period 1986-1987.

4. Thus the 1986-1987 work programme of the Lusaka-based MULPOC in the mineral development sector will largely be composed of (a) those projects in the work programme of ECA and relevant to the eastern and southern African subregion (e.g. advisory services to member States and multinational institutions, on request, on the technical, managerial, policy and economic aspects of mineral resources development; preparation of studies on the availability of selected mineral resources within the subregion for the industrial development needs of the subregion, etc;) and (b) those projects of national, inter-governmental, and other institutions of which the said institutions will seek the participation of the MULPOC office.

5. With regard to progress in the implementation of resolution IV of the Sixth Meeting of the Lusaka-based MULPOC Council of Ministers (February 1983), it will be recalled that the said resolution did inter-alia (a) appeal to all member States of the subregion to provide the necessary political and material support for the effective operation of the ESAMRDC, (b) request the Executive Secretary of ECA on behalf of the member States of the subregion to mobilize the necessary financial and technical assistance from the international community and bilateral donor sources for the operation of the institution, and (c) further request the ECA secretariat to report to the MULPOC Council of Ministers on progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

2/ The SADCC countries are: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

6. At the Sixth meeting of the Governing Council of the ESAMRDC held at the headquarters of the Centre in Dodoma, United Republic of Tanzania on 23 May 1985, the Government of Angola signed the Agreement establishing the ESAMRDC. This brought the number of contracting member States to the institution to six (Angola, Comores, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania). At the same meeting, the Zambian Government announced that Zambia would soon join the institution after completing the necessary administrative formalities.

7. In the light of experience gained, the Sixth meeting of the Governing Council of the ESAMRDC amended the Agreement establishing the Centre with respect to (a) the composition of the Governing Council, (b) the replacement of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Centre by an Executive Board and (c) the consequential modification of the functions of the Director General of the Centre.

8. The situation now is that the Governing Council of the ESAMRDC is composed of: (a) the Minister responsible for mineral resources development of each contracting Government or his/her representative;3/ (b) the Minister responsible for regional co-operation of the United Republic of Tanzania or his/her representative;4/ (c) the Executive Secretary of ECA or his/her representative; and (d) the Director General of the Centre who shall be an ex-officio member of and Secretary to the Governing Council. The Governing Council shall meet at least once every year and may hold extraordinary meetings on the request of its Chairman or three of its members. The Chairman may invite Ministers responsible for mineral resources development of non-contracting Governments to meetings of the Governing Council.

9. The Executive Board of the ESAMRDC is composed of (a) the Executive Secretary of ECA or his/her representative who shall, ex-officio, be Chairman of the Executive Board; (b) a senior technical expert responsible for mineral resources development of each contracting Government; (c) an additional technical expert appointed by the Government of the country where the Centre is situated; and (d) the Director General of the Centre who shall be an ex-officio member of and Secretary to the Executive Board.5/

3/ Previously the Agreement read: a member appointed by each participating Government

4/ Previously the Agreement read: an additional member appointed by the Government of the host country.

5/ Previously the Technical Advisory Committee was composed of the Director General of the Centre, three members of the professional senior staff of the Centre and a representative of the ECA.

10. The Executive Board shall, subject to such directions of general nature as the Governing Council may give, have overall responsibility for the execution of the work programme of the Centre. The Executive Board may invite experts in the field of mineral resources development from the countries of the contracting Government as well as from those which are not contracting Governments to take part in its deliberations. The Executive Board shall meet at least once a year and may hold extraordinary meetings at the request of its Chairman or one third of its members. The next ordinary meetings of the Executive Board and the Governing Council of the ESAMRDC are scheduled to take place in Dodoma during May 1986.

11. During the period under review, the ECA secretariat continued to mobilize donors confidence and support to the ESAMRDC as a result of which previous commitments by such donors as the Belgian Government and the European Economic Community (EEC) are expected to be put into effect towards the support of projects to be implemented by the Centre for its member States.

12. The present MULPOC organs meetings may wish to urge the countries and relevant institutions of the eastern and southern African subregion to increase co-operation between themselves and the office of the Lusaka-based MULPOC in the sector of mineral resources development and further appeal to the countries of the subregion to implement previous recommendations of the MULPOC organs in this sector.